**Kaplan Agile Estimation Model**

Complexity guidance is provided to give team members a frame of reference with regard how difficult or simple and intricate a user story will be to develop and test.

| **Days** | **Complexity Guidance** | **Effort** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **4**  **XLARGE** | * User Story is not understood, allot of ambiguity. * Multiple dependencies on other stories, other systems or subsystems * User Story is difficult for product owner to accurately describe * Multiple unknowns * Large amount of technical code refactoring required * Requires allot of research * Requires some difficult judgment calls | * More than 5 days of work * **!** Break story down into a set of smaller stories |
| **3**  **LARGE** | * User Story is not clearly understood, some ambiguity. * Moderate number of dependencies on other stories, other systems or subsystems * User Story is somewhat difficult for product owner to accurately describe * Moderate level of unknowns * Some amount of technical code refactoring may be required * Requires little research * Requires few important judgment calls | * 3  to 5 days of work |
| **2**  **MEDIUM** | * User Story is easy for product owner to accurately describe * User Story is clearly understood, no ambiguity * Little or no research required * Few unknowns | * 1 to 2 days of work |
| **1**  **SMALL** | * User Story is easy for product owner to accurately describe. * User Story is very clear with no ambiguity * No unknowns * No research required | * A few hours of work to 1 day. |